TRIBAL ART SOCIETY

Thursday
August 1st
2023

ONLINE CATALOGUE LXXX

AUGUST ISSUE

WHO WE ARE

The Tribal Art Society features an online catalogue every month listing quality works of Asian art that have been thoroughly vetted by our select members, who are the in-house experts.

By bringing together a group of trusted dealers specializing in Tribal art, our platform offers a unique collection of works of art that collectors will not find anywhere else online. To ensure the highest standards, gallery membership is by invitation only and determined by a selection committee.

/TribalArtSociety

Cover Image: Baule Colon Figure. Presented by Renaud Vanuxem on p. 12

AUGUST ARTWORKS

Pieces are published and changed each month. The objects are presented with a full description and corresponding dealer's contact information. Unlike auction sites or other platforms, we empower collectors to interact directly with the member dealers for enquiries and purchases by clicking on the e-mail adress.

In order to guarantee the quality of pieces available in the catalogues, objects are systematically validated by all our select mebers, who are the in-house experts. Collectors are therefore encouraged to decide and buy with complete confidence. In addition to this, the Tribal Art Society proposes a seven-day full money back return policy should the buyer not feel totally satisfied with a purchase.

Feel free to ask the price if the artwork is listed with a price on request.

01

'OE' PADDLE

Paddle
Manihiki, Cook Islands
19th century
Length: 163 cm
Coconut wood, shell, 19th century
varnish
Price:

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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02

ABRON FIGURE

Figure
Abron
Ivory Coast
19th century
Wood, glass beads
Height: 26 cm
Provenance:
Gérald & Muriel Minkoff, Geneva
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Guilhem Montagut
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03

ANCIENT COLON FIGURE

Figure
Baule
Ivory coast
Wood
Height: 45 cm
Price: 1.600 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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04

BATEBA SCULPTURE

Sculpture
Lobi
Burkina Faso
Early 20th century
Wood
Height: 62 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Nice-Monaco.
(acquired in situ, on the 1960's)
Price: 15.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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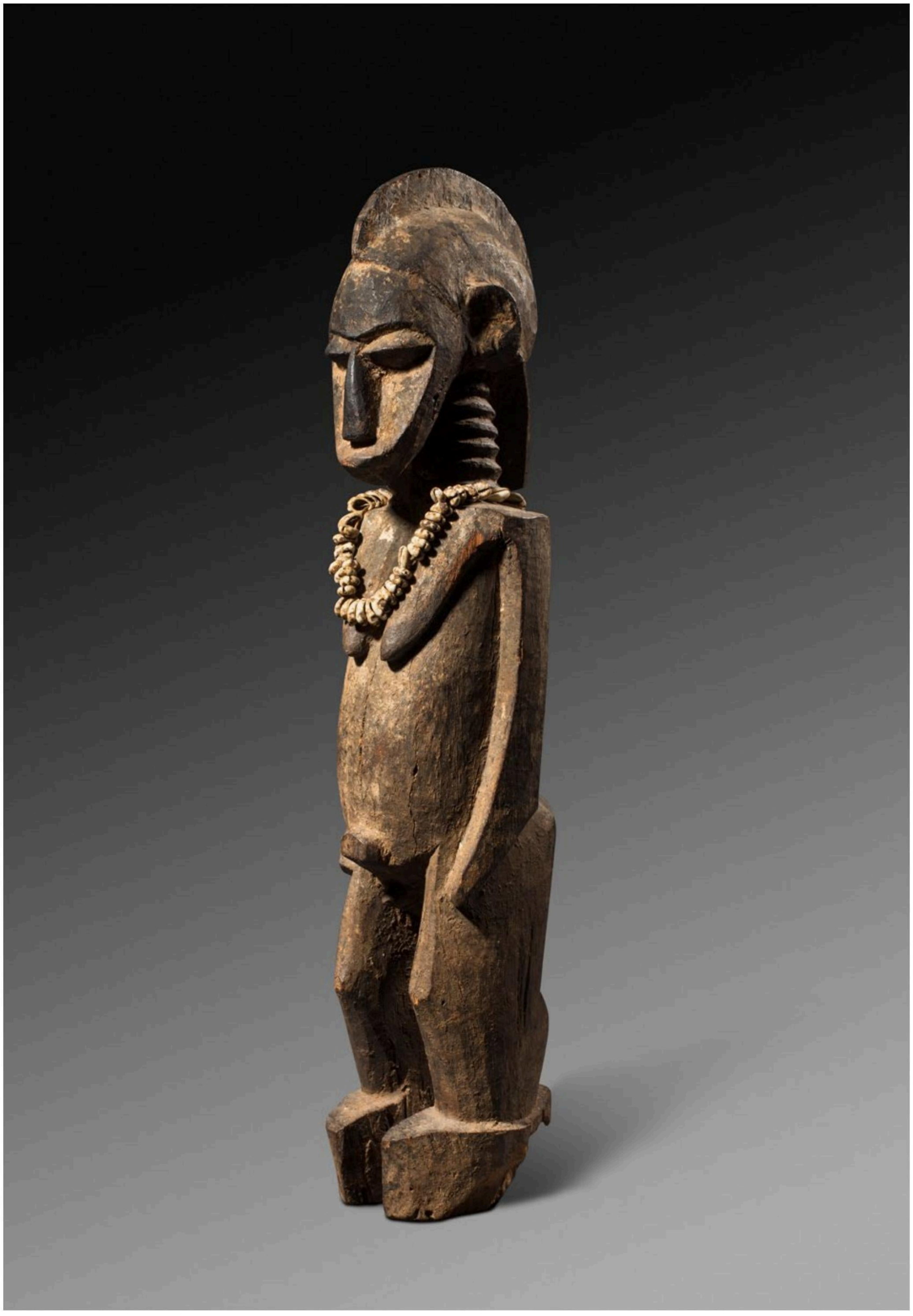

05

BAULE FIGURE

Figure *waka sona, blolo bla*
Baule
Ivory Coast
Wood, beads, fiber and pigments
Height: 37,5 cm
Provenance:
Ex Private collection, Brussels
Ex Herve Bouraly collection, Paris
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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06

BAULE LADLE

Ladle
Baule
Ivory coast
Wood
Height: 46 cm
Price: 1.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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07

BWENDE FETISH

Statue
Bwende
D.R. of the Congo
19th century
Wood, nails
Height: 28 cm
Provenance:
Frédéric Poutchkovsky, Paris
Olivier Castellano, Paris
Price on request

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08

DRAG HANDLE OR TOGGLE CARVED AS SWIMMING SEAL

Point Hope, North Alaska
18th/19th century
Walrus tusk (Odobenus rosmarus divergens) with a superb patina of age and usage, glass trade beads, skin and whiskers
9,7 cm
Provenance:
Dr. John Beach Driggs collection, Driggs was an Episcopal missionary, physician and educator who served at Point Hope, Alaska, between 1890 and 1910 as the first missionary in the far north
By family descent.
Skinners Auction, 2019
Private French collection
Price on request

A superb drag handle or toggle carved as a swimming seal. The naturalistic head has blue glass trade beads with seal or walrus whisker pupils. The face is sensitively carved, offering a marvelous example of early Eskimo carving showing the sense of observation and quality of hand of the artist. The joined, rear flippers are pierced through vertically. The remains of a walrus or seal skin rope is still attached with its original knot. Toggles of this type were often used to pull hunted seals back to settlement and were fitted to either side of the drill thong when using a two-person pull-drill. One man pulled the thong in one direction while the other held the drill and pulled in the opposite direction.

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09

GATAWAKA CLUB

Club
Fiji Islands, Melanesia
19th century
Wood
Height: 100 cm
Provenance:
Old private collection, U.K.
Nick Foley-Oates collection, U.K.
Price: 5.500 euros

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10

GOPE FIGURE

Gope spirit board or *Bioma*
Wapo / Era, Papuan Gulf, Papua New Guinea
Early 20th century
Carved wood and pigments
Height: 69 cm
Provenance:
Etude Jutheau auction sale, Paris, 14 Dec. 1990, lot 9
Pablo Volta collection (1926 – 2011), Paris
Exhibition:
"Maryan, une peinture vérité", Galerie Kamel Mennour, Paris, March-May 2022
Price on request

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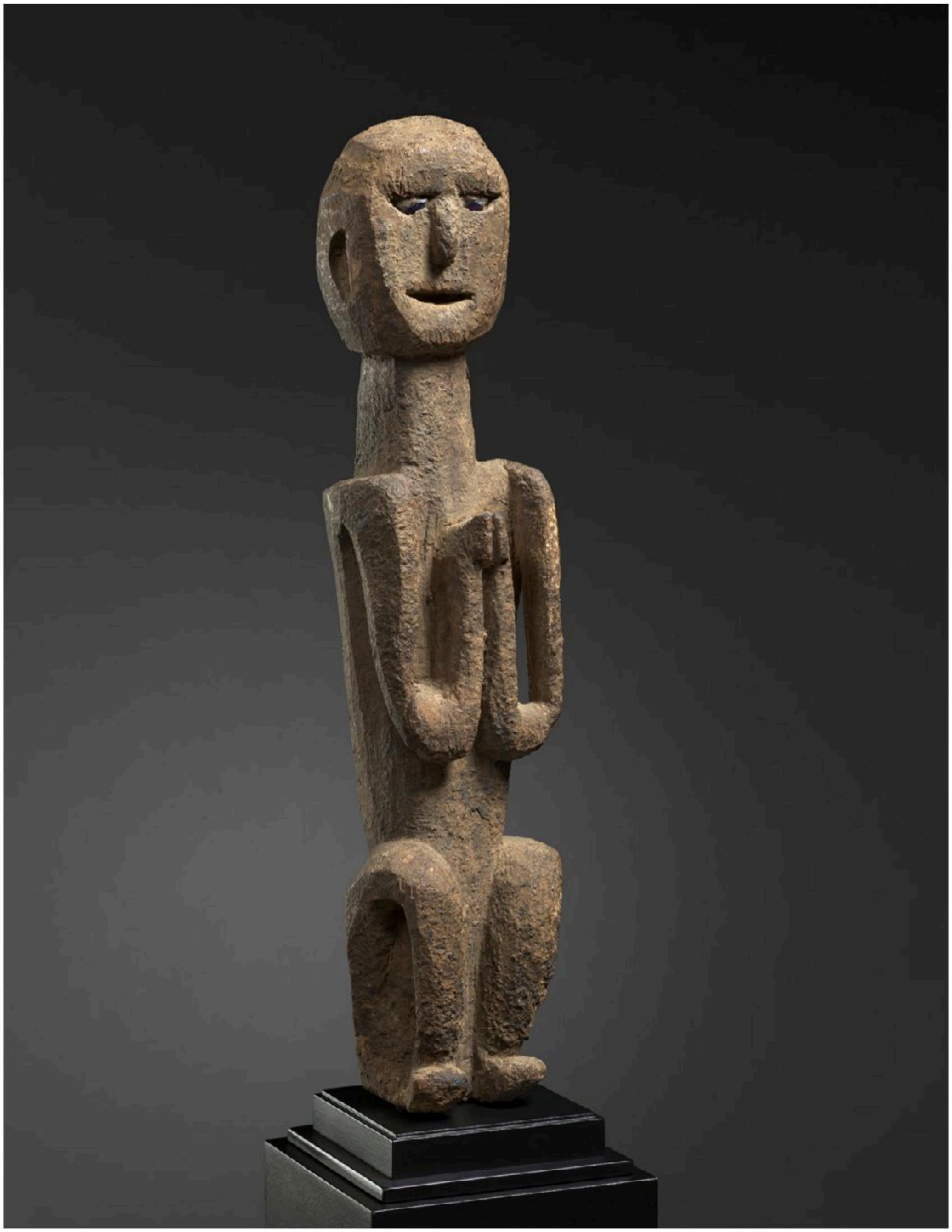
As described in "Coaxing the Spirits to Dance" (Hood / Metropolitan Museum), in the past, the primary focus of religious and artistic life in the region was on powerful spirits (imunu). Each imunu typically was associated with a specific location in the landscape, rivers, or sea, and was linked to the specific clan within whose territory it dwelt. Papuan Gulf wood sculpture was primarily two-dimensional, consisting of board-like carvings, known as spirit boards (Gope or kopé), and figures with designs in low relief. Villages formerly had large communal men's houses divided into cubicles, each allotted to a particular clan or subclan. Every cubicle contained a clan shrine, which housed the Gope spirit boards, figures, human and animal skulls, and other sacred objects associated with the clan's various imunu.

A very similar figure appears in a field photograph taken by Frank Hurley in 1921 in the village of Kinomere (Urama) and published in "Embodied Spirits" page 298 as well as on photos by John Vandercook taken in 1933.



11

KHAS GUARDIAN FIGURE

Guardian figure, *bahan*
Khas people,
Bajura district, Nepal
19th century or earlier
Wood, glass eyes
Height: 26 in / 66 cm
Provenance:
Ex private French collection
Published in: Cortes, Jean-Luc,
La Statuaire Primitive de L'Ouest du Népal, 2011, plate 1
Price on request

These figures served as village and household guardians in the far west of Nepal. Commonly mislabeled "spring figures," they arise from a different cultural impulse than that of the "primitive" black-patinated masking tradition found more to the east, often developing a thick smoked interior patina or a heavily eroded surface from exterior exposure. They can be squatting or standing, but always have the arms up and hands together, as in prayer. This is a superb example, an archetypal expression of this unique art form.

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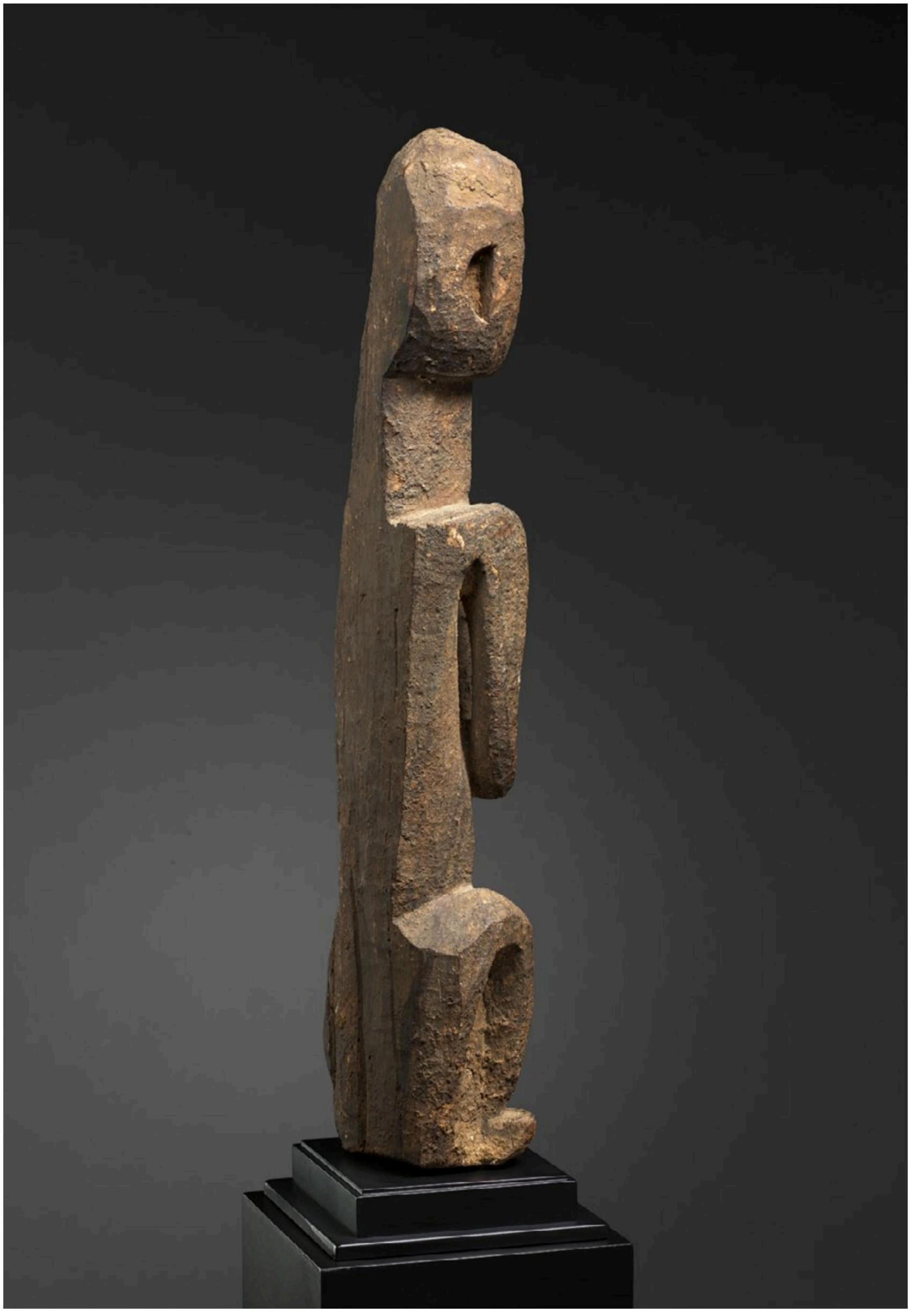

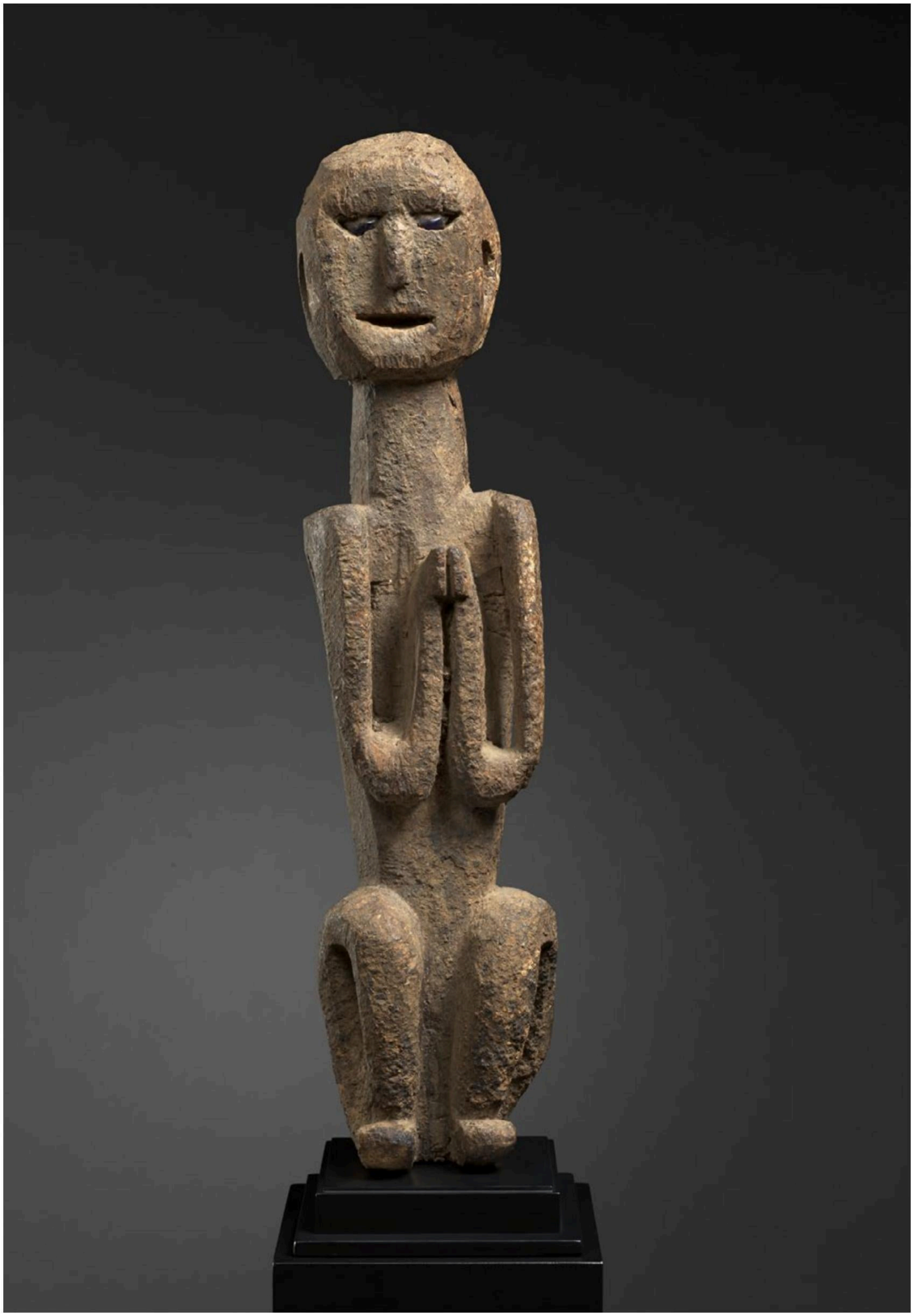

12

HAWAIIAN TAPA BEATER

Tapa beater *I'e kukuk*
Hawaii Islands
19th century
Height: 37, 5cm
Wood
Provenance:
Leo and Lillian Fortess collection,
Honolulu, Hawaii
Price on request

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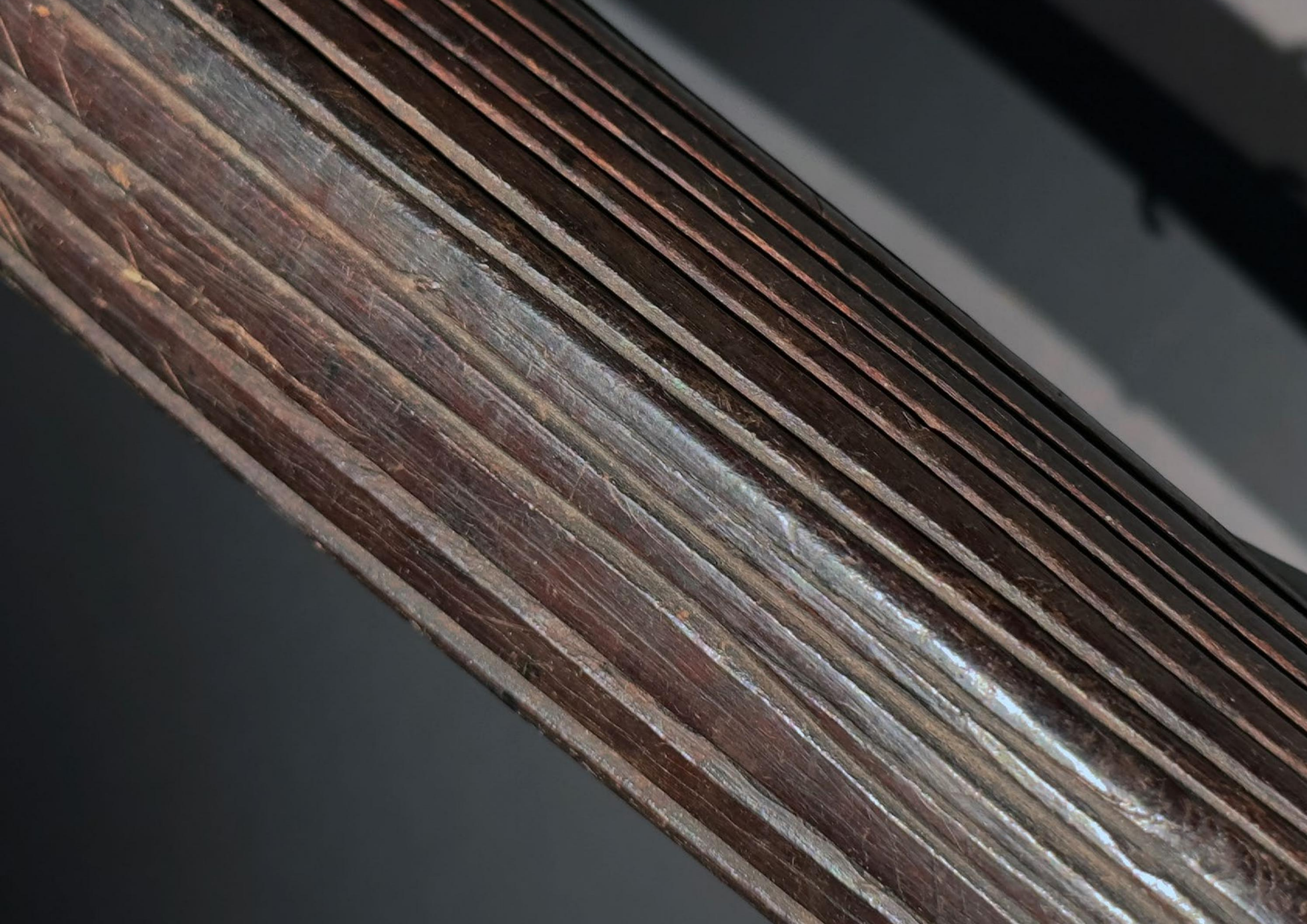

13

JAPANESE HOOK

Jizai Kagi Hearth Hook
Japan
Mid 19th Century or earlier
Wood
20 x 10 x 6 inches
Price on request

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Jizai Kagi are hooks suspended from the rafters above a hearth in a traditional Japanese home, especially noted in the mountains.

From them would hang an iron boiling pot, offering a warm, welcoming place in the center of the home.

Jizai are appreciated as classical Mingei folk art sculptures made of beautiful wood that becomes highly patinated.

14

KACHINA DOLL

Mona Katsina – Thunder Kachina doll
Hopi
Arizona, USA
Circa 1930s or 1940s
Carved wood (cottonwood root) and pigments
Height: 22,5 cm
Provenance:
Ex private collectio, USA

TAS Exclusive Price: 5.500 euros

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Kachina dolls (or katsinam) represent spirits or gods from the pantheon of the Pueblo peoples in the American Southwest. Given to children, kachina dolls constituted a pedagogical tool allowing them to familiarize themselves with the spiritual world and perpetuating knowledge of the founding myths on which their society was based.

Mona Katsina (the Thunder or River Kachina) appears in ritual dances on the Third Mesa. This kachina spirit is said to ensure that abundant water will come to the Hopi land. He is a prayer for rain and a steady flow of the rivers.

15

KENYA HEADREST

Headrest
Kenya
Early 20th century or earlier
Height: 25 cm
Price :

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
T.: + 44 7725 689 801
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W. : www.adamprout.com

A rare and early headrest. Beautiful shape, beautiful colour.

From the shape of the seat this is probably Karamojong (see Anitra Nettleton ' African Dream Machines' illustration 244)

16

KRINJABO HEAD

Head
Akan
Ghana / Ivory Coast
19th century or earlier
Terracotta
Height: 27 cm

TAS Exclusive Price: 950 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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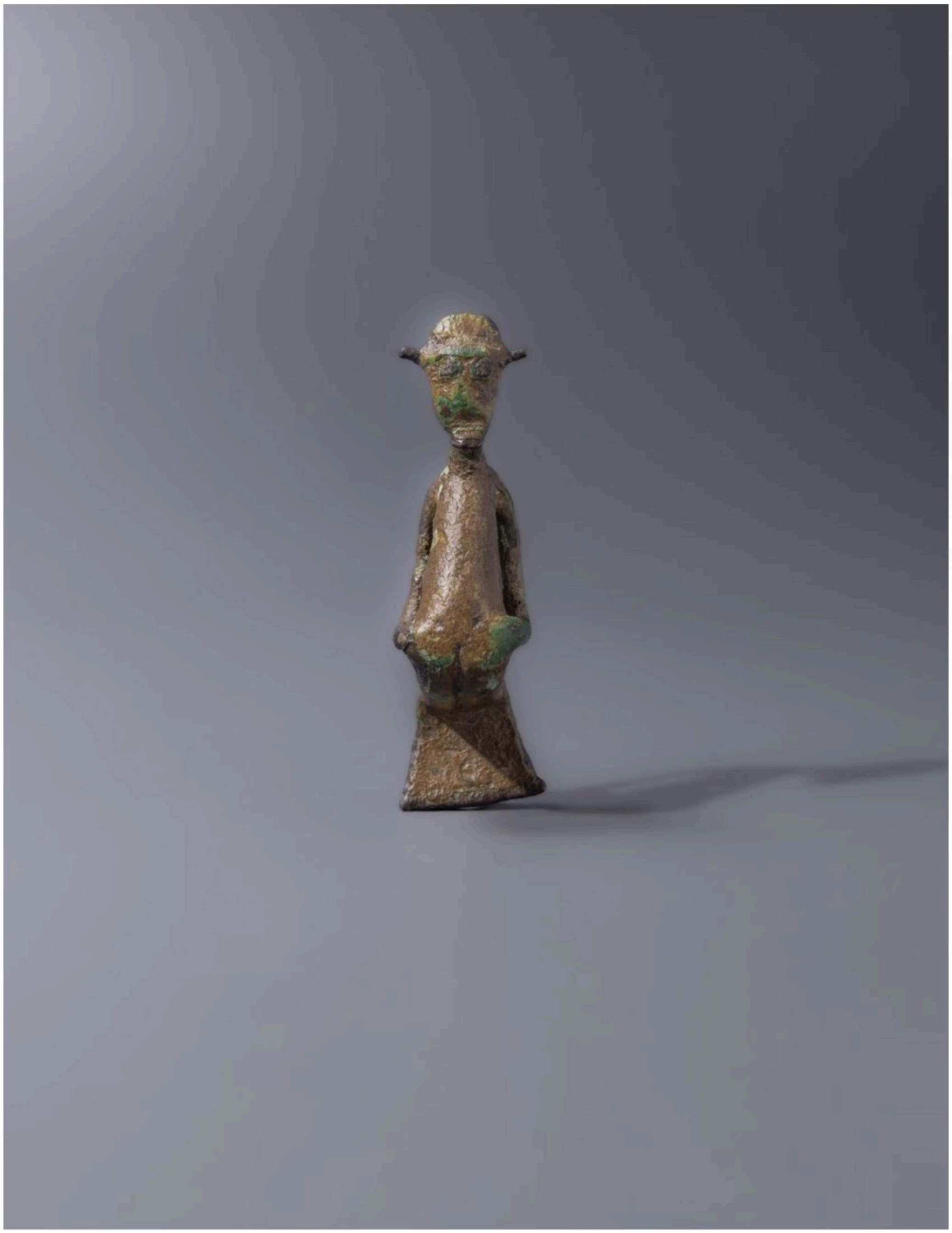

17

KULANGO FIGURE

Figure
Kulango
Ivory Coast
19th century
Bronze
Height: 5,5 cm
Provenance:
Renaud Vanuxem, Paris
Price: 1.500 euros

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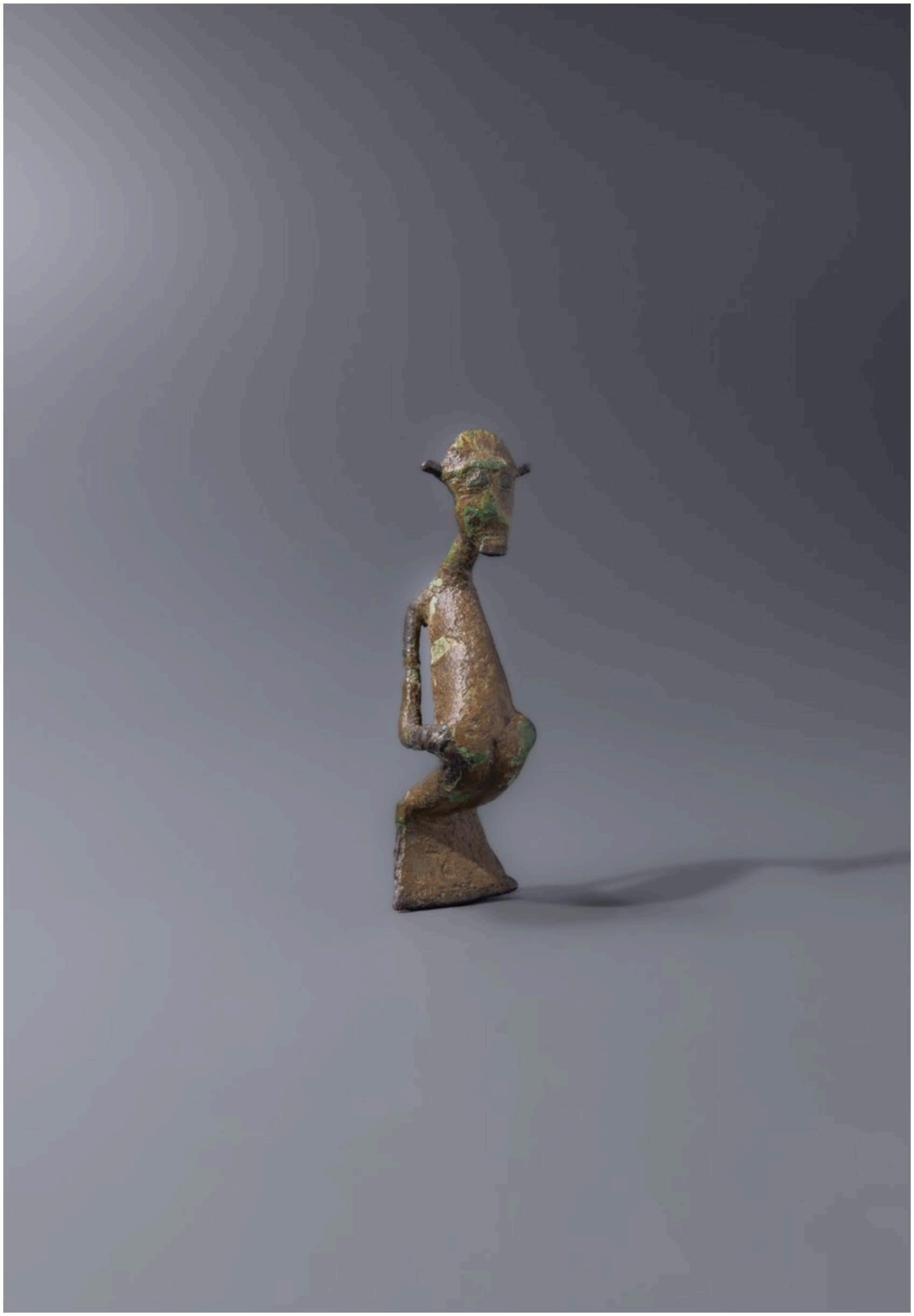

18

KUMU MASK

Mask
Kumu
D.R. of the Congo
Wood, kaolin and pigments
Height: 32 cm
Price: 4.800 euros

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19

LEGA MASK

Mask *Lukwakongo*
Lega
D. R. of the Congo
(Congo Kinshasa)
Wood, shell and pigments
Height: 23cm
Provenance:
Private collection, NY
Price

SOLD

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20

LOINCLOTH

Potsdamhafen (Monumbo Harbor) or Hatzfeldhafen, Northeast coast of the Madang province south of the mouth of the Ramu River, PNG, Melanesia
19th/20th century
Tapa and black pigment mounted on a section of early plywood
139 cm x 39,5 cm
Provenance:
Collected in the field by Oscar Meyer, circa 1938/1940; Gifted or sold to his friends the artist Emile & Anna Compard, Paris circa 1950
Brita Compard-Guzman & Alberto Guzman by descent;Acquired from Brita Compard Guzman
Price on request

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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A rare male loincloth decorated with hand drawn, black, designs that represent two stylized crocodile heads, placed nose to nose, in a field of complex geometric motifs. These exceptional and early pieces of clothing were worn by men of importance, although Crispin Howarth relates them to an initiation ritual for young men.

Tapa loincloths from this area were rarely collected as can be presumed by the small numbers of similar examples in public collections including the early German colonial period collections. Several are displayed in the Humboldt Forum presentation of the Oceanic section of the former Berlin Volkerkunde Museum and at least one other is in the Dresden Museum für Völkerkunde. Another is in the collections of the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology in Cambridge, UK inv. N° E 1915.26.102 and one collected by Richard Parkinson is in the Field Museum, Chicago, inv. N° 105562.

21

MARQUESAS EAR ORNAMENT

Ear ornament – Putaiana
Marquesas Islands
19th century or early 20th century
Marine ivory
Length: 4,6 cm
Provenance:
Sotheby's New York,
May 19th, 2000, lot 174
Abe Rosman & Paula Rubel collection,
New York acquired at the sale above

TAS Exclusive Price: 4.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Julien Flak
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As stated by Edmond de Ginoux (an ethnologist in French Polynesia in the 1840s), "no one in the Marquesas Islands[...] would appear in public without wearing ear ornaments".

This type of *Putaiana* ear ornaments were passed on from generation to generation. They usually featured one or more tiki figures. Sometimes as may be the case here, the ornaments depict scenes associated with mythological tales.

These finely carved adornments were displayed on the occasion of complex ceremonies. According to Claude Stéfani, in "L'art ancestral des Iles Marquises", the ephemeral arrangement of ornaments was as important as their intrinsic beauty.

22

MASSIM SWORD-CLUB

Sword-club
Massim Region, South East New Guinea, Melanesia
19th century
Wood (brown Quila) with lime highlights and a fine patina of age and use.
88,1 cm
Provenance:
W.D. Webster Before 1913
Collection of Seymour And Alyce Lazar, Palm Springs; 6 Oct. 2022, Sotheby's - Sculpture From The Collection Of Seymour And Alyce Lazar, Palm Springs, Lot 64, Sotheby's, New York - 6 Oct. 2022
Collection of Eugene Manning, New York
Bears the white paint Inv. Number 13118 and 304 of William Downing Webster (1868-1913), Bicester, Oxfordshire
Price on request

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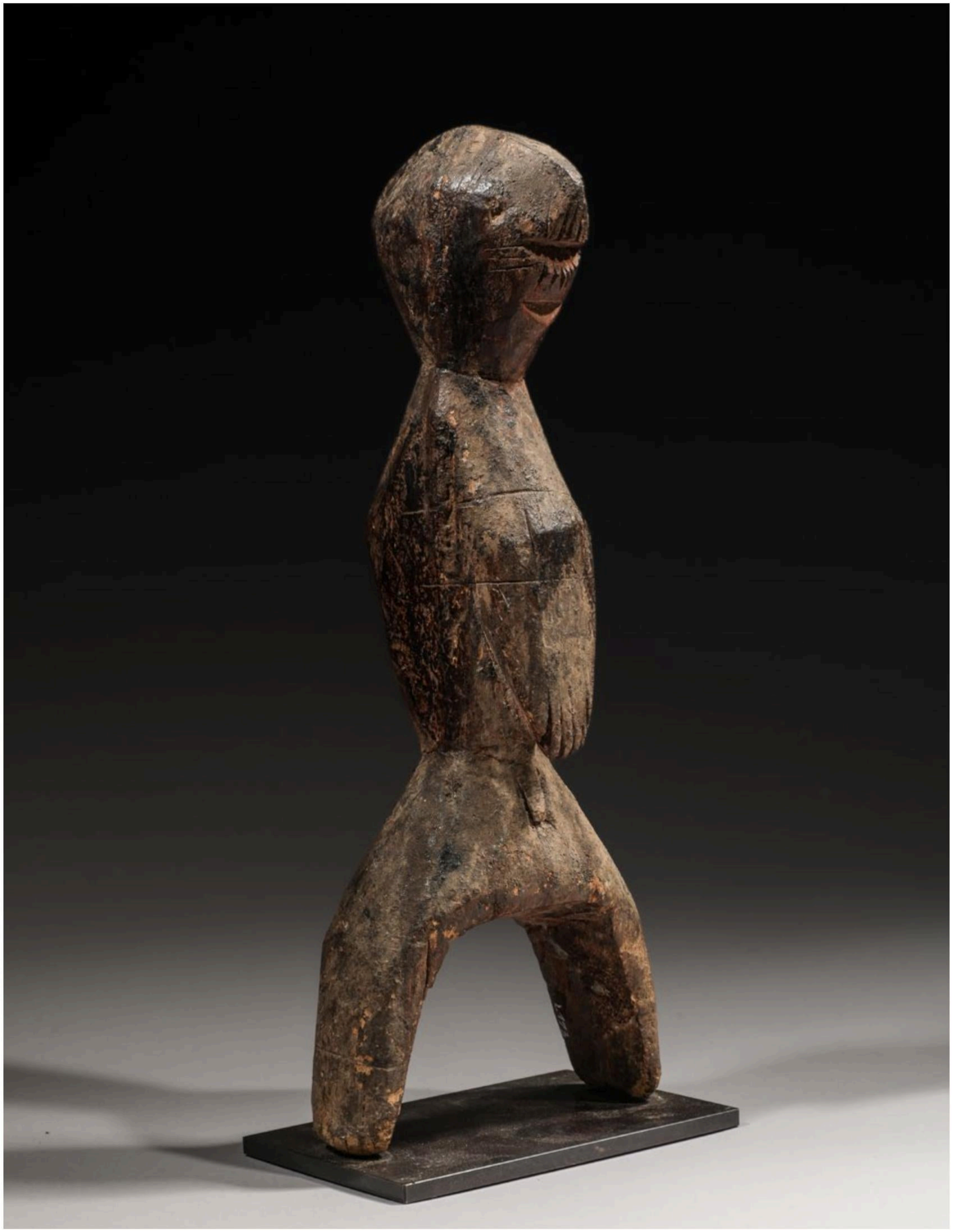
Very fine and large « sword-club » of classic format decorated with a stylized birdhead on the pommel. The blade is decorated with a large panel of incised scroll motifs to both sides. Both the hand-guard and pommel are decorated with incised zigzag motifs.

13118

13118



23

MUMUYE STATUE

Statue
Mumuye
Nigeria
Wood
Height: 28 cm
Price: 3.800 euros

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24

PUNU MASK

Mask
Punu
Gabon
Wood, kaolin and pigments
Height: 34 cm
Price: 5.000 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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25

QUEENSLAND CLUB

Club
Queensland, Australia
Mid 19th century
Length: 56 cm
Provenance:
U.K. collection
Price:

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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A very rare stone carved club dating to the mid 19th century at least. For a similar example see the British Museum, number Oc1886,1015.10.

They have maybe 10 or so leangle from Victoria but only one of these clubs from Queensland.

26

SONGYE FIGURE

Figure
Songye
D.R. of the Congo
19th century
Wood, nail
Height: 20 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Switzerland
Price: 4.000 euros

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27

TELLEM NECKREST

Neckrest
Tellem
Mali
Before 16th century
Wood
Height: 9 cm
Length: 19 cm
Provenance:
Private belgian collection
Price: 1.200 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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28

TELLEM NECKREST

Neckrest
Tellem
Mali
Before 16th century
Wood
Height: 14 cm
Length: 18 cm
Provenance:
Private belgian collection
Price: 800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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A small double-sided pendant carved with a smiling face to either side. Both faces show incised dot tattoo motifs to either side of the mouth which is carved through. The hair is separated on the brow swept to the sides of the forehead and bundled into a loop forming the hanger. This is a unique representation of Janus' faces.

29

TELLEM NECKREST

Neckrest
Tellem
Mali
Before 16th century
Wood
Height: 16 cm
Length: 22 cm
Provenance:
Olivier Larroque
Private Belgian collection
Price:

SOLD

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
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30

TELLEM NECKREST

Neckrest
Tellem
Mali
Wood
Height: 15 cm
Length: 26 cm
Provenance:
Didier Claes, Bruxelles
Private Belgian collection
Price : 1.400 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:

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31

TSOGHO GONG

Gong
Tsogho
Gabon
Wood, metal and kaolin
Height: 42,5 cm
Provenance:
Yann Ferrandin, Paris
Max Itzikovitz, Paris
Private Collection, Paris
Price: 4.800 euros

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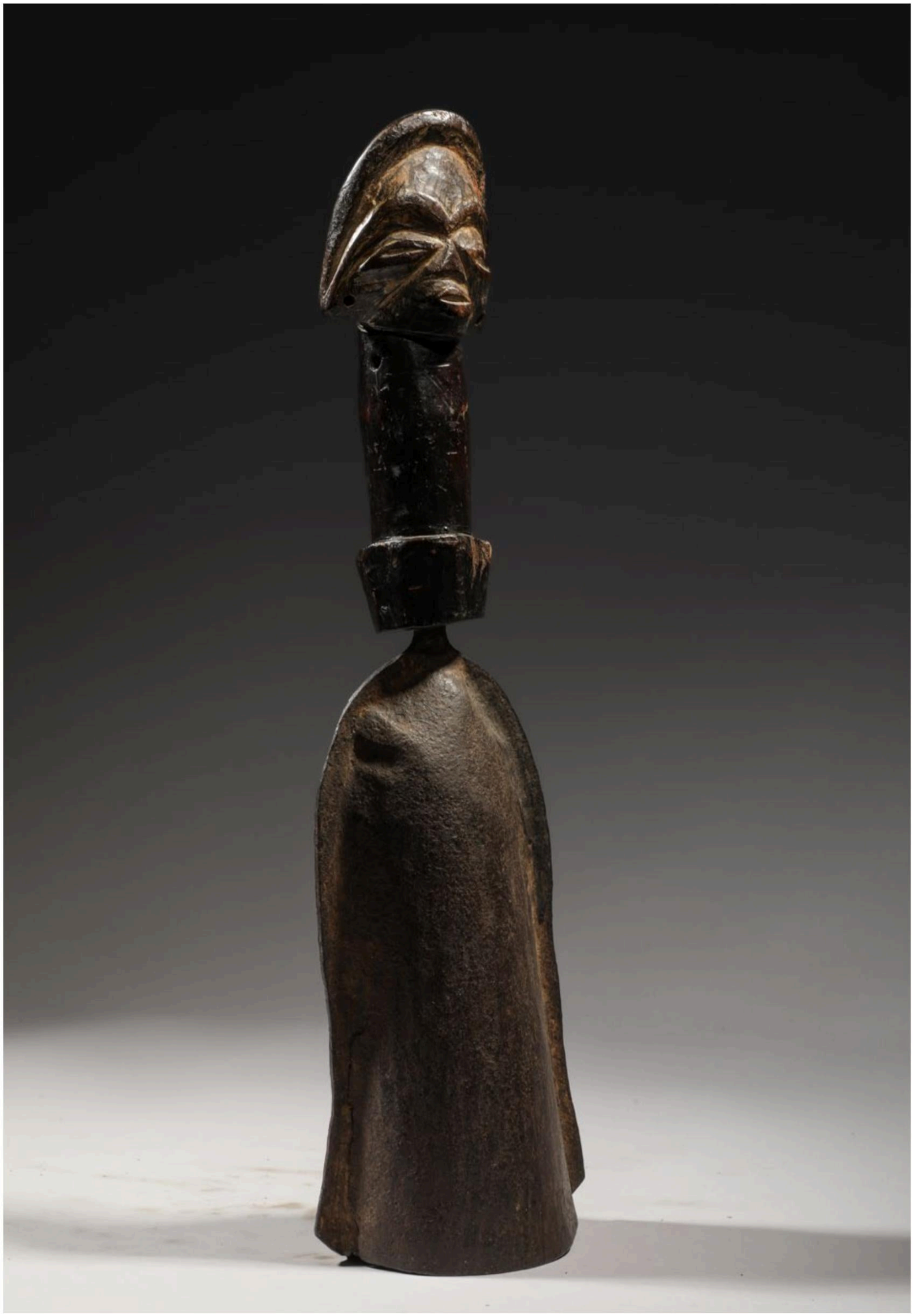

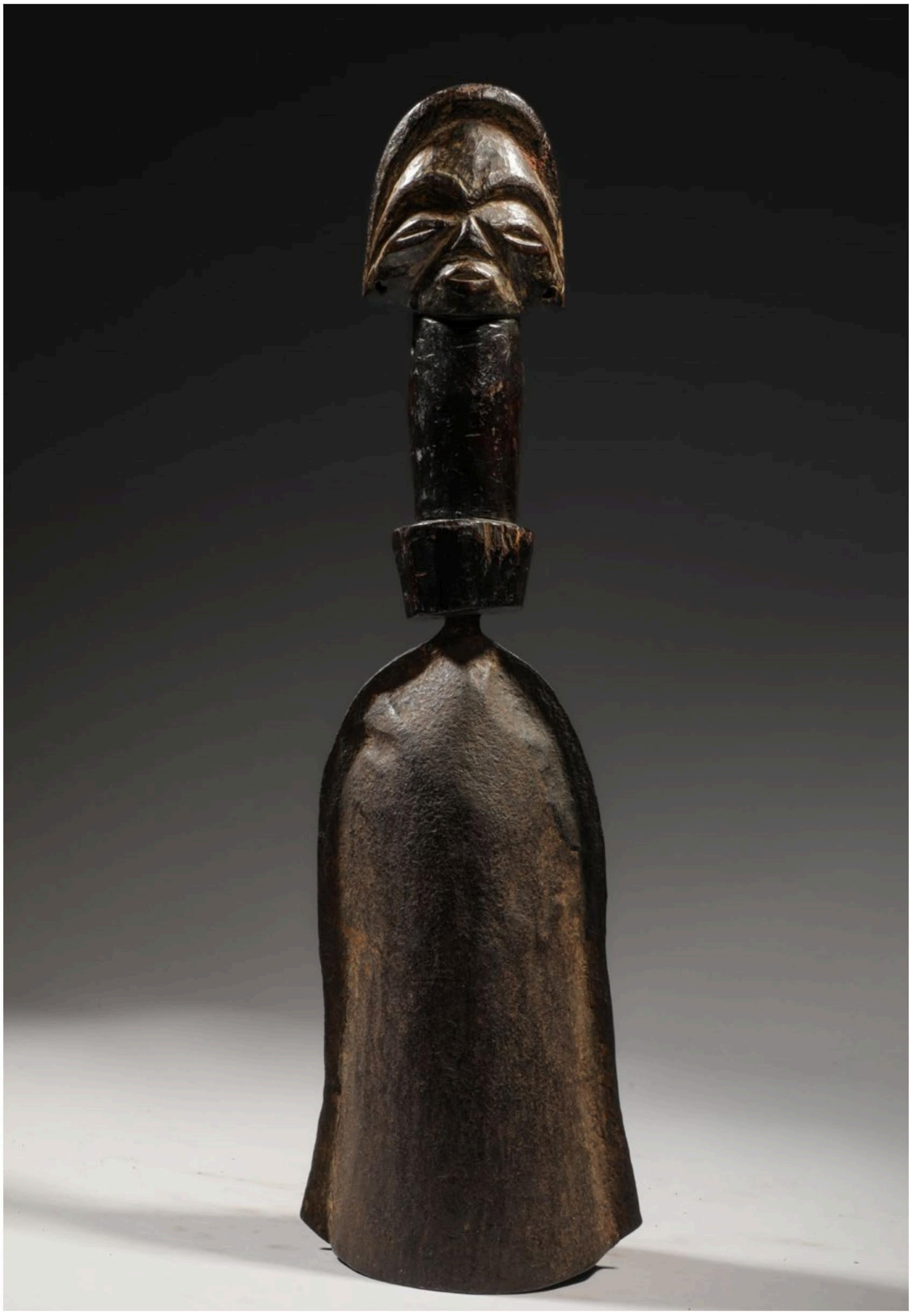

32

YORUBA SHRINE

Shrine
Yoruba
Owo or Ijebu, Nigeria
18th century
Copper alloy
Height: 12 cm
Diam.: 23 cm
Provenance:
Private collection, Belgium
Abdulaye Ousmane, Belgium / Togo
Private collection, Spain
Price: 12.000 euros

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33

ZULU / TSONGA STAFF

Staff
Zulu / Tsonga
South Africa
19th century
Length: 52 cm, the container is 23 cm x 14 cm
Price: 2.800 euros

OBJECT PRESENTED BY:
Adam Prout
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A rare and extraordinary Snuff dance staff dating to the 19th century. There is relatable example in the Terence Pethica collection that has brass wire work. That staff has been carved from two pieces where as this one has been carved from one piece. Typical scorched decoration.

TRIBAL ART
SOCIETY